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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **CITY COUNCIL PASSES HISTORIC AMENDMENT ESTABLISHING A VETERAN HIRING PREFERENCE ACROSS CITY GOVERNMENT**

CHICAGO – Today, the Chicago City Council unanimously approved a municipal code amendment establishing a Veterans' hiring preference across all city departments. This amendment expands the current preference to all job categories within the city of Chicago, ensuring that veterans receive preference in the selection process for employment opportunities.

"This is a historic day not just for our Veteran community but also for the city of Chicago. While the current hiring preference primarily focuses on public safety roles, it was crucial that we expand its scope. We recognize the diverse range of skills and expertise that veterans bring to the table, from skilled labor to IT and beyond," stated **Alderman Villegas, Chair of the Council's Veteran Caucus** and former U.S. Marine who spearheaded this legislation. "Our city will undoubtedly benefit from the invaluable skills and experience that our veterans will contribute to the workforce in City Government."

The Department of Human Resources (DHR) will lead both the implementing and expansion of the Veteran Hiring Preference program within the city of Chicago.

"I am profoundly honored to continue extending a warm welcome to our veterans as they return to the greatest city in the world. With the passage of this historic amendment, we are not only reaffirming our commitment to honoring their service but also extending that welcome to our city's workforce," said **Mayor Brandon Johnson**. "By providing veterans with priority in the hiring process across all city departments, we are recognizing their invaluable contributions and ensuring they have every opportunity to thrive in our vibrant community."

Under this amendment, the Commissioner of Human Resources, in collaboration with the Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs, will undertake all necessary measures to develop, promulgate, and publicize a city-wide veterans hiring preference program in accordance



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with this ordinance. Details of the program will be submitted to the Committee on Workforce Development.

“When veterans are leaving service, I want them to think of Chicago first when looking for employment opportunities,” said **Kevin Barszcz, a U.S. Navy Veteran and Director of the Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs**. “This amendment will provide greater opportunities for veterans seeking employment and further integrate them into the city's workforce.”

The Johnson administration remains steadfast in its commitment to being a welcoming city for veterans and their families, and this ordinance represents yet another step towards supporting those who have served. The city of Chicago is home to over 65,000 veterans, 70% of them being minorities and women.

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